

White Sands Test Facility reaches for and grabs OSHA Star

For three years, the NASA Johnson Space Center White Sands Test Facility (WSTF) in Las Cruces, N.M., prepared for an audit by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The facility hoped to earn OSHA's Star safety rating – the highest awarded by the group.

In February, WSTF employees' hard work paid off when the facility was awarded two OSHA Star flags: One for NASA and another for a contractor, Honeywell Technology Solutions Inc. (HTSI). The rating is based on OSHA's four criteria for safety performance: Management Leadership and Employee Involvement; Worksite Analysis; Hazard Prevention and Control; and Safety and Health Training.

OSHA believes that its award program has many benefits:

- Increased employee motivation to work safely
- Better quality and productivity
- Reduced workers' compensation costs
- Recognition in the community
- A reduction in lost work days
- An improvement of programs that are already considered satisfactory

The award was presented on Feb. 26 in the WSTF's Rotunda, and is the first ever awarded in the state of New Mexico.

Dignitaries attending the event were complimentary and encouraging in their remarks. Stacy Nakamura, of JSC's Quality, Assurance, Reliability and Safety Office, told the WSTF audience, "To all my friends here at WSTF: Enjoy the moment. I salute you."

Out of more than 6 million worksites in the United States, only 719 have received the Star safety rating. It is even more impressive that WSTF should be awarded the Star, given the dangerous nature of the facility's work. WSTF supports the Space Shuttle with rocket engine testing, fuel handling, and materials and component testing.

However, obtaining the Star rating was not the main goal. WSTF NASA Manager Joseph Fries was more concerned with creating a genuine "safety culture," which he likened to a family in which everyone cares about each other's safety and health.

"I wanted the safety culture to be in place before we applied for the Star," Fries said. "I was concerned about employees' safety more so than I was about receiving a Star rating."

Throughout the implementation period of the safety culture at WSTF, Fries continued to speak out on employees' safety and health as being more important than obtaining the Star certification.

After having received the Star, Fries called the certification "a milestone in improving our Safety and Health Program."

Rod Drake, OSHA auditor, said at the audit, "When management and employees get together, it equals culture change."

Drake also that he was "really amazed at the progress when more employees are put into the system. You have a good group of people here – a VPP family."

To achieve this attitude at WSTF, Fries established the Keystone Committee, a safety-awareness committee, to oversee the implementation of the safety culture at WSTF. Past and present members of the Keystone Committee are: Danny Aranda, John Bernal, Radel Bunker-Farrah, Denzil Burnam, Robert Cort, Charlie Collins, Eric Crespin, Marc Dunford, Raul Estrada, Holger Fischer, Sean Gates, Pete Garcia, Everett Havenor, John Kelley, Jose Lopez, Victor Meza, Jesse Wells, John Bernal, Bob Kowalski, Jim Wing, Victor Maese, Melanie Galt, Cheerie Patneade, Jill Rollings, K. C. Schlotterbeck, Case Van Dyke, Richard Von Wolff and Larry Wiedmaier.

Holger Fischer, committee chair, said: "During the past three years, the Keystone Committee operated on the principle that we were badgeless during the meetings."

Fischer added, "Only the safety and health of our employees mattered, not whether we were civil service or contractor, salaried or hourly. We worked as a team."

Mark Leifeste, WSTF HTSI Program Manager, agreed with Fischer.

"The VPP flag has given us a new slant on our identity. Our site has always had a reputation for being very responsive through our capabilities, a reputation that few places can match," he said.

"What we have now is objective evidence that we can perform hazardous jobs and do them safely. We are proving to a critical eye that we can break down the stereotypical ideals between management and employees and work together in the best interest of the site."

Sarah Hearrell, OSHA audit team leader, identified characteristics that OSHA looks for in Star-quality facilities. "Basically, we look for employee empowerment," she said. "We want to see employees taking possession of their own health and safety."

Hearrell, who has worked on both sides of the industry as an enforcer of OSHA regulations and now as an auditor, complimented WSTF as a great place to work with its "unique approach to the work force industry in helping the government with its space program."

Robert Baker, former WSTF HTSI Program Manager, was proud of the test facility receiving the Star certification.

"It's an outstanding accomplishment," he said. "I think the future holds room for improvement. If we continue to enhance and improve the safety culture, then I think there is the achievable possibility of zero accidents and injury."

Fries said he was proud of the way WSTF accomplished this goal but, like Baker, he hopes for even more safety success in the future.

"We must continue to focus on improving our safety program," he said. "Now that the attainment of the flag can no longer be considered the measure of our success, we must establish new methods for measuring success."

Fries identified communication as a possible future focus for WSTF, calling it "the mechanism that will thrust us forward toward a safer and healthier workplace in the future." ♦



Stellar Awards: Excellence shining through

The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement Foundation honored several government and industry employees at a black-tie event on March 8.

The Space Center Rotary Club established the Stellar Awards in 1985. The awards recognize individuals who have made outstanding achievements in space, creating a greater public awareness of the benefits of space exploration.

Three JSC individuals and two JSC teams were honored:

Timothy J. Woeste
JSC Engineering Directorate



NASA JSC 2002e09042

Recognized for his outstanding leadership of two critical Shuttle flight tests of the International Space Station (ISS) Space Integrated GPS/Inertial Navigation System (SIGI) Orbital Attitude Readiness Experiment and effective management of the ISS SIGI program.

Gerald J. LeBeau
JSC Engineering Directorate



NASA JSC 2002e09046

Recognized for his innovative development of the Direct Simulation Monte-Carlo Analysis Code, recognized as NASA's state-of-the-art computational tool for low-density flow field simulations.

Paula M. Bilstein
TechTrans International



NASA JSC 2002e09040

Recognized for her dedication to excellence in teaching and a commitment to the vision of international cooperation in space. She demonstrated that commitment during management of the JSC Language Training Program for ISS and Shuttle crews, and implementation of unified training programs between NASA-JSC and the Russian Space Agency.

Robonaut Development Team

Recognized for application of state-of-the-art concepts for the development of Robonaut, whose humanoid robot upper torso represents multiple technological advances and opens a wide range of possibilities for augmenting human support of space vehicles, such as the ISS.

Window Observation Research Facility and Science Window Team
Aerospace Corporation

Recognized for a dramatically improved view of Earth from the ISS, made possible with the Destiny Module Nadir Science Window and Window Observational Research Facility, providing world class Earth science with high quality views of 85 percent of the globe.

Also receiving Stellar Awards were:

- ❖ **Harold C. Croop**, Air Force Research Laboratory
- ❖ **Capt. John W. Wagner**, USAF Space Warfare Center
- ❖ **Lt. Gen. Brian A. Arnold**, United States Air Force
- ❖ **David A. Weber**, United Space Alliance
- ❖ **Paul E. Adamek**, United Space Alliance
- ❖ **Ali R. Dianaty**, Boeing Rocketdyne
- ❖ **Richard D. Baily**, Boeing Rocketdyne
- ❖ **Dr. Benton C. Clark**, Lockheed Martin Astronautics Operations
- ❖ **Dave A. Thayer**, American Pacific Corporation
- ❖ **Expendable Launch Vehicle Project Management Team**, Kennedy Space Center
- ❖ **RS-68 Development Team**, Boeing Rocketdyne
- ❖ **Reusable Solid Rocket Motor Nozzle-to-Case J-leg Team**, ATK Thiokol Propulsion Corp.

Space pioneer honored

Dr. George Mueller, Chief Executive Office of Kistler Aerospace Corporation, was awarded the coveted National Space Trophy award.

He joined Kistler in April 1995, continuing a career in space, science, engineering and corporate leadership.

From 1963 to 1969, Dr. Mueller led the program that put Americans on the moon.

As head of the Apollo Manned Space Flight Program for NASA during that period, Dr. Mueller was responsible for the Gemini, Apollo and

Saturn programs. In this role, Kennedy, Johnson and Marshall Space Flight Centers reported to him.

He was the originator of Skylab, the world's first space station, and is acknowledged to be the "Father of the Space Shuttle." He is the author of "An Integrated Program of Space Utilization and Exploration," which has been the guiding document for NASA following the Apollo program.

After leaving NASA, Dr. Mueller became Senior Vice President of General Dynamics Corporation from 1969 through 1971, and then Chairman and President of System Development Corporation from 1971 through 1983. From 1983 until joining Kistler, he was President of Jojoba Propagation Laboratories, and Chairman of Desert King Jojoba Corporation.

He is the recipient of many prestigious awards, including the National Medal of Science and three NASA Distinguished Service Medals.



NASA JSC 2002e09073

Dr. George Mueller, known as the 'Father of the Space Shuttle,' is presented the prestigious National Space Trophy by former JSC Director Chris Kraft.

Journalist recognized

Journalist Miles O'Brien was presented the **Space Communicator/Media Award**. O'Brien is a news anchor for CNN/U.S. and the space correspondent for the CNN News Group. As the space correspondent for the CNN News Group, O'Brien contributes regular reports to Next@CNN, a one-hour weekly magazine-format program covering science, technology, space, aviation and environmental current events. Additionally, he has covered such stories as John Glenn's return to space on Oct. 29, 1998, during which he shared the anchor desk with broadcast news pioneer Walter Cronkite. An instrument-rated pilot with several hundred hours of flight time in a dozen types of aircraft, O'Brien covers all aspects of manned space flight, as well as unmanned scientific missions.



NASA JSC 2002e09036

Photos by James Blair

Profiles

Asian-Pacific Month

Gail Horiuchi

Time at JSC: 20 years
Organization: Space Shuttle Program
Position Title: Technical Assistant
Education: MS, Materials Science Engineering
Place of birth: Osaka, Japan
Hobbies:



NASA JSC 2002e14056

Antiques, crafts and travel
What does Asian Pacific American Month mean to you?
To be perfectly honest, I don't do anything special; I think we should all do our best all the time.
Favorite words of wisdom:
This comes from my upbringing, but I always come back to it: "Respect your elders." There is a wealth of knowledge from others' experiences.

Stephen Chan

Time at JSC: 12 years
Organization: Shuttle Business Management Office, Flight Ops Team
Position Title: Program Analyst
Education: B.S. in Finance
Place of birth: Tainan, Taiwan
Hobbies:



NASA JSC 2002e14055

Woodworking and cooking
What does Asian Pacific American Month mean to you?
It is a celebration of different cultures.
Favorite words of wisdom:
Always tell the truth.

Hanh Nguyen-xuan

Time at JSC: 18 years
Organization: Mission Integration and Operations Program Office
Position title: Operations Integration Manager
Education: Mechanical Engineering, minor in Electrical Engineering
Place of birth: Vietnam
Hobbies: Reading, flying and swimming
What does Asian Pacific American Month mean to you?



NASA JSC 2002e14057

Recognition of the Asian-Pacific Americans for their dedication and contributions to U.S history and the National Space Program.
Also promoting the overall awareness of Asian culture in the International Space Program.
Favorite words of wisdom: Everyone has an invisible sign hanging from his neck saying, "Make me feel important."

Charlene E. Miagawa Gilbert

Time at JSC: 15 years
Organization: Technology Transfer & Commercialization Office
Position title: Director
Education: M.S. Physical Science/Space Science, University of Houston Clear Lake
B.S. Math/Statistics, Northern Michigan University
Place of birth: Chicago, Ill.
Hobbies: Travel, sailing, windsurfing and bicycling



NASA JSC 2002e14058

What does Asian Pacific American Month mean to you?
I see it as a time to remember my responsibility to be a role model for other Asian Americans.
Favorite words of wisdom: Failure is not an option.

Simon Hsu

Time at JSC: 14 years
Organization: International Space Station Resources Management Office
Position title: Resources Management Analyst
Education: M.S. in Industrial Engineering
Place of birth: Taiwan
Hobbies: Reading, singing, surfing the Internet and playing basketball



NASA JSC 2002e14055

What does Asian Pacific American Month mean to you?
It recognizes the culture diversity of JSC people. We respect the culture differences and work together toward the common goals.
Favorite words of wisdom: Treat others like you would want to be treated.

Photos by Bill Stafford

Applications being accepted for the NASA Fellowship Program; deadline is June 10

NASA Fellowship is an Agencywide development program sponsored by Headquarters. It seeks to align employee development with NASA's vision and mission. This program plays a key role in ensuring that NASA's workforce is ready and able to lead the world in space exploration, scientific discovery, technology development and managerial excellence by sponsoring employees' participation in various programs offered by universities such as Harvard, Carnegie-Mellon and Simmons. Each year, participants are selected from across the Agency on a competitive basis. The programs are targeted primarily for employees at the GS-13 to SES levels.

If you are interested in being nominated for any of these programs, your first step is to talk to your supervisor. Applications should be submitted to your directorate/program office. Offices will forward them to the Human Resources Development Branch (AH3) by June 10, 2002. The Center's NASA Fellowship Panel will choose JSC nominees and final selections will be made at NASA Headquarters. In selecting candidates, Headquarters and JSC consider the following criteria:

- ❖ Pattern of significant recognition/accomplishments
- ❖ Education and development record
- ❖ Demonstrated potential

- ❖ Purpose for participating in the program
- ❖ Plan for using knowledge gained in support of Center goals

Final selections will be based on the needs of the Center and the match of individual needs with the program objectives. For program descriptions and to apply, visit <http://hro.jsc.nasa.gov/training/dev/nasafellow.htm> For further information on the NASA Fellowship Program, please contact Stacey Medina-Decker (x41069) or Diane Kutchinski (x46490) in the Human Resource Development Branch.

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